

February 7, 1956

Dr. A. G. Loewy
Biology Department
Haverford College
Haverford, Pa.

Dear Dr. Loewy:

Thank you for your letter of the 3d. Actually, Skaar's name leapt to mind long before I read your P.S., and I would have little hesitation in recommending him to you. Actually, I gather he is not too badly settled in his present situation with Dr. Demerec at Cold Spring Harbor, but I know he would thrive in a more academic atmosphere, with a judicious sharing of teaching and research interests.

Although I know Dr. Skaar only as a research associate, I would judge him to have the makings of an exceptionally fine teacher. This conclusion is based partly on his broad biological training (which includes the immunogenetics of paramecium and of bacteria, and unusual skill and dedication as a "birdwatcher"), and his articulateness and vigor in explanation. I also know that he would like to teach. As a researcher, I found him to be an imaginative thinker and a critical colleague. He had a tendency to start too many problems at once, and then work erratically on them, but he has eventually been cleaning up the many loose ends that this leads to. He is steadily improving his competence, and while I would still hesitate to entrust graduate students to his care, he is unquestionably quite able to conduct his own research at a high level of competence. I feel that once he does get settled in a single line of work that best suits his interests, he will make a preeminent research man, too. Until now, I think he has suffered by the lack of security in moving from one place to another before he could organize a program of his own design. However, he has recently done a very interesting problem in collaboration with Alan Garen, on the isotopic tracing of gametic DNA in the course of fertilization in *E. coli*. He is also just now completing an accumulation of older works for publication. If you are acquainted with him at all, you know that he and his wife are both the most personable, stimulating people and they should be a valuable addition to your college community.

While Dr. Skaar is probably your best bet, if he is not available to you I would attract your attention to Dr. S.G. Bradley. It will save me some time if I refer you to a copy of his vita, enclosed, which I had asked him to draw up for these and other purposes. Bradley is not as flashy a thinker as Skaar, but makes up for this in the persistent, methodical execution of his work and thought. He is also rather younger, and less sophisticated, but is growing more rapidly. He would also be a dedicated teacher, and has a fairly broad background in microbiology. Professor Sussman can expand these details if you like. After Skaar, Bradley would be my next choice among the people I know. He has done a very creditable research job, and can be counted on for utter reliability and conscientious performance in everything he does. Everyone here is very fond of him.

Yours sincerely

Joshua Lederberg